

Key Decisions and Issues to be Considered in the Passaic River Lower 8 Mile Cleanup

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Nine Criteria Used by EPA in Making Superfund Decisions

- overall protection of human health and the environment;
- compliance with ARARs;
- long-term effectiveness and permanence;
- reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume;
- short-term effectiveness;
- implementability;
- cost;
- State acceptance; and
- community acceptance.

For each of the key decisions that need to be made, key Issues important to the community may include:

- Environmental and public health protection actually achieved
- Construction impacts on the river, fish and animals, recreational and commercial users, communities, and shoreline
- Opportunities for natural resource restoration
- Impacts on navigation
- Enhancements to the local economy and jobs
- Long-term potential for recontamination, new sources of pollution, or spread of contamination during construction
- Reliability, proven effectiveness, and potential for successful application on any technologies used
- Time and money required to achieve cleanup

Decision 1. Extent and volume of sediment to address

Choices will include cleanup of hot spots or specific areas of contamination up to edge-to-edge scope.

Decision 2. Dredging vs. capping

The remedy could include either or some combination of these two.

Decision 3. Capping Technology Employed, if selected

A type of cap will need to be identified, as well as where it would be utilized.

Decision 4. Management of any materials removed from the River, treatment and/or disposal

Even if treatment is selected there will almost certainly be large amounts of residues that require disposal, it is unlikely that everything will be able to be reused. Key choices must be made for both treatment and disposal.

Key Treatment Choices:

- What type of treatments to select, multiple treatment processes could be used
- Siting of any local treatment facility
- Impacts to air and water quality
- Transportation of materials to treatment facility (rail, truck, pipeline, barge)
- Potential for reuse of materials

Key Disposal Choices:

- What material goes where, different streams of material may go to different types of disposal
- Land Disposal vs. Water Disposal
- If water disposal: type, size, location of facility
- If land disposal: Distant existing facility vs. new local site-specific facility
- Transportation of materials to disposal facility (rail, truck, pipeline, barge)